



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

June , 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., *TW* Chairperson

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for a Grant for Parent Support and Education Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Criteria for a grant to support parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities are proposed. This grant will support the State Board of Education Policy Framework for Special Education, especially in the area of connecting schools and families. It helps move forward the State Board's Strategic Initiative: Integrating Communities and Schools.

Parent involvement is a critical element of both Part C (Early Intervention Services) and Part B (Special Education) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part D (Personnel Development) of IDEA also requires that states have an approved comprehensive system of personnel development, and that parents are considered a part of the personnel development system. Recent assessment of the Michigan Department of Education's current approaches to meeting this obligation has resulted in expanded and refined goals to better serve special education stakeholders in Michigan. Stakeholders including parents, teachers, administrators, advocates, and persons with disabilities completed this assessment through the federal Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP).

In order to meet these improvement goals, a grant is proposed to integrate and improve various activities aimed at supporting parents of children with disabilities. Additional activities will be developed to meet the needs identified through the self-assessment and improvement planning processes of the CIMP. Grant funds are available as identified in the approved spending plan for IDEA funds allocated to Michigan beginning in FY 2003-2004.

The purpose of this grant is to provide statewide personnel development and support opportunities to ensure that parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities have access to the information and support necessary to engage as partners in the planning

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and implementation of their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Furthermore, the grant will provide leadership development and support to parents who serve in advisory roles critical to the early intervention and special education system, namely parents who serve on the Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Intermediate School District (ISD) and Local Parent Advisory Councils (PACs), and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICC).

Criteria for this grant are presented in the attachment.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for the Parent Support and Education Grant under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as identified in the Superintendent's memorandum dated June 11, 2003.

Attachment

**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for a Grant for Parent Support and Education Under IDEA

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal “Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children, with primary emphasis on chronically underperforming schools and students.” In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- Ensuring Excellent Educators
- Elevating Educational Leadership
- Embracing the Information Age
- Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
- Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

☒ Competitive ☐ Formula ☐ New ☐ Continuation

Parent involvement is a critical element of both Part C and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part D of IDEA also requires that states have an approved comprehensive system of personnel development, and that parents are considered a part of the personnel development system. The purpose of this grant is to provide statewide personnel development and support opportunities to ensure that parents of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities have access to the information and support necessary to engage as partners in the planning and implementation of their child’s Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Furthermore, the grant will provide leadership development and support to parents who serve in advisory roles critical to the early intervention and special education system, namely parents who serve on the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), ISD and Local Parent Advisory Committees (PACs), and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs).

LEGISLATION

The need for active partnership between the parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, and their service providers or schools is well documented throughout the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Parent participation is critical in the evaluation of their child, the development of service/program plans, and in the effective implementation of those plans. The state educational agency has an obligation to provide support and education to parents to assist them in developing the knowledge and skills needed to partner with educators and service providers on behalf of their children.

The IDEA also mandates that the state educational agency maintain two advisory groups. These advisory groups, the SICC for Part C and the SEAC for Part B, includes parents of children with disabilities. The State of Michigan also mandates the existence of PACs at every Intermediate School District through its special education rules. Supporting and educating parents who serve in these roles is critical to the development of partnerships between parents and schools.

Criteria for a Grant for Parent Support and Education Under IDEA

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

Parent involvement is critical to improving student achievement. This grant will provide personnel development and support opportunities to parents of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Grant activities will focus on ensuring that parents have the necessary information and support to engage as partners in the planning and delivery of services to their child with disabilities. The grant will also provide leadership development and support to parents who serve in advisory roles critical to the early intervention and special education system.

CRITERIA

☐ Defined in Legislation ☒ Defined in Department's Grant ☐ Proposed by Staff

The statewide Parent Support and Education grant will be awarded based on:

- Demonstrated capacity to support and manage a statewide initiative.
- Understanding of the research-based elements of personnel development and adult learning.
- Understanding of the statutory requirements of personnel development activity under the IDEA and the findings of the continuous improvement monitoring process (CIMP) relative to parent support and education.
- Demonstrated success in the support and education parents of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.
- Understanding of the advisory roles within the early intervention and special education system.
- Understanding of IFSP and IEP processes.
- Demonstrated understanding of the connections to other OSE/EIS funded personnel development projects.
- Collaborative proposals including parents, schools and higher education are encouraged.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include: Intermediate and local school districts, including public school academies; institutions of higher education; professional organizations; private non-profit agencies, and others with demonstrated experience in providing the products and services specified in the request for proposals.

TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Parents of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities who are served through Part C or Part B of the IDEA are targeted for support and education to improve their ability to engage as partners in the planning and implementation of their child's IFSP or IEP. Parents of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities who serve in advisory capacities to the early intervention and special education system are targeted for leadership development and support so that their effectiveness in those critical roles is enhanced.

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Criteria for a Grant for Parent Support and Education Under IDEA

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$500,000 from Part B and up to \$100,000 from Part C are available under the IDEA allocation to Michigan for FY 2003-2004, as identified in the approved spending plan for Michigan. Funding for up to five years will be available contingent upon successful delivery of grant specifications and availability of federal funds.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services
Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director
Program Contact: Karen Rockhold, Acting Supervisor